The Office Action at page 4, lines 6-10, states in response to the applicants' prior arguments of patentability, that:

> "...an ink jet recording material having an ink receptive layer with a pH of 3-6 provides excellent results, and no good results can be obtained using ink receptive layer having a pH value of 2.5 or 6.5. This argument is not persuasive because the information disclosed in page 25, lines 18-25 of the specification contradicts with the above argument..."

The Office Action further states, at page 4, lines 14-16 that:

> "The Examiner may have misunderstood the information in page 25, line 18-25 of the specification; therefore, the Examiner kindly request further elaboration."

The applicants submit that the results shown in Example 4 on page 25 of the present specification clearly shows superiority of the surface pH between 3 and 6 and thus supports the patentability of the presently claimed invention.

The results disclosed on page 24, lines 18-25 of the present specification show the degree of the effects at the respective pHs by an equal sign (=) and a sign of inequality (>, >>).

Further, with regard to "Evaluation results of color reproducibility of original image", samples with a surface pH of the ink-receptive layer of 3.5, 4.5, 5.5 and 6.5 showed an equal good result, whereas the sample with a surface pH of 2.5 showed a markedly inferior result to those of the samples with a surface pH of 3.5, 4.5, 5.5 and 6.5.

With regard to "Water resistance", samples with a surface pH of 2.5, 3.5 and 4.5 showed an equal good result, whereas the sample with a surface pH of 5.5 showed an inferior result to those of the samples with a surface pH of 2.5, 3.5 and

4.5. The sample with a surface pH of 6.5 showed a further inferior result to those of the samples with a surface pH of 2.5, 3.5 and 4.5.

With regard to "Quality of coated surface", samples with a surface pH of the same of 2.5, 3.5 and 4.5 showed an equal good result, whereas the sample with a surface pH of 5.5 showed an inferior result to those of the samples with a surface pH of 2.5, 3.5 and 4.5. The sample with a surface pH of 6.5 showed a markedly inferior result to those of the samples with a surface pH of 2.5, 3.5 and 4.5.

The above discussed results are summarized in the following table:

	Surface pH of ink-receptive layer				
	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.5	6.5
Evaluation results of color reproducibility of original image	×	◎	◎	◎	◎
Water resistance	◎	◎	◎	○	△
Quality of coated surface	◎	◎	◎	○	×

◎: Good;
○: this is inferior to ◎;
△: this is inferior to ○;
×: this is markedly inferior to ◎ or ○

For practical use, it is strongly desired to satisfy all the above three evaluation criteria simultaneously. With respect to the presently claimed invention, when the surface pH of the ink-receptive layer is between 3 and 6, specifically good results can be obtained, and it can be also understood that extremely good results can be obtained when the surface pH of the same is between 3.5 and 4.5.

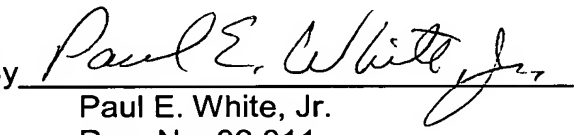
In contrast to the presently claimed invention, the teachings of Sakaki and Kasahara, provide no disclosure to even suggest the concept of the presently claimed invention wherein a surface pH of the ink-receptive layer between 3 and 6 gives specific effects.

Accordingly, the applicants submit the that presently claimed invention is no where disclosed, suggested or made obvious by the teachings of Sakaki and Kasahara. The presently claimed invention is fully allowable under Section 103(a) in view of the cited art.

In view of the above, and previously asserted arguments of patentability, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MANELLI DENISON & SELTER, PLLC

By 

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